

**Town of West Hartford
Conservation and Environment Commission (CEC)
Meeting Minutes
May 31, 2016, 7:00 PM
Town Hall, Room 400**

Present: Commissioners: Brian McCarthy (Chair), Scott Sebastian (Vice Chair), Dennis Durao, Ryan Langan, Chen Lu, Beth Lander Morris, Stefanie Wnuck

1. The March 2016 CEC Meeting Minutes were approved (on Motion by Langan, Second by Lu).
2. Communications and News: Dallas Dodge has resigned from the Commission.
3. New Business:

72 Hillsboro Drive – Application (IWW #1044) of Deborah E. Beach, (Tom Daly, P.E., Contact) requesting approval of an Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Permit to conduct certain regulated activities which may have an adverse impact on a watercourse (Hunter Brook). The applicant proposes to install 6” sewer lateral in order to provide sanitary sewer service to the existing home and make associated site improvements. All construction will conform to the MDCs standard requirements and specifications (Submitted for IWWA receipt on June 6, 2016. Presented for determination of significance.)

Thomas Daly, P.E. at Milone and Macbroom, presented the application on behalf of the current homeowner. The property has a perennial walled stream channel (with a foot bridge) running across the front yard, which faces Hillsboro Drive. It is not clearly understood if the stream (Hunter Brook) is dry during the year.

The home has a failed septic system as determined by Bob Proctor of the West Hartford Bloomfield Health District. There are sewer lines on both Hunter Drive and Hillsboro Drive. The subject property is accessed by a driveway off Hunter Drive. The project proposes to abandon the existing septic system, leaving it in place, and filling it in with gravel.

The applicants are proposing to install a 6” sewer lateral from the home across the front yard, crossing the walled stream channel to connect to an existing sanitary sewer pipe on Hillsboro Drive. It is thought that MDC has already stubbed out a connection on Hillsboro Drive. The applicant has tentatively selected to contract with JDC Enterprises, Inc. to perform the work. Pending project approval, JDC proposes to sandbag the stream, likely in July, pump stream water around the construction area, and to dig a trench connecting the waste pipe to the sewer on Hillsboro. The applicants mentioned they would hand dig to install the 6” sewer lateral underneath the streambed. The sewer will be surrounded by a cement encasement to prevent potential future erosion of the pipe from the stream channel. The applicants have said that the contractor would plan to

complete the project during a single continuous work shift, estimated to be 12 to 16 hours, to minimize the impact on the stream.

In response to an inquiry by the CEC about whether a diversion permit is needed, Daly stated that this project does not require a diversion permit as it is a temporary bypass of the stream and not a diversion of flow.

Daly then presented alternate design approaches that were deemed infeasible. Installing a sewer lateral to connect to the sanitary sewer instead on Hunter Drive, located behind the property (and where the home's driveway is located), was deemed infeasible. Ben Diamond and Alexandra Zikely, prospective homebuyers in attendance, stated that MDC would not approve of a sewer connection to Hunter Drive due to public health codes as there is an existing water main, although no documentation was offered of this claim. In addition, there is a 10-foot-wide strip of land not owned by the homeowner that separates the property and the Hunter Drive right-of-way. Daly also noted that due to the grading on the property, connecting a sewer to Hunter Drive would require a pump, which would not be desirable. The CEC would contend that a pump system would be an option in order to preclude the significant disturbance to Hunter Brook.

The CEC recommends that a sewer connection to Hunter Drive be re-evaluated as a better alternative than connecting to the Hillsboro Drive sewer. It is not understood if other homes on Hillsboro have sewer pipes that cross under or through Hunter Brook in this area. The commission also would request the documentation from MDC that a connection to the Hunter Drive sewer is not feasible, as presented by the applicants. If the project were to proceed with a connection to the Hillsboro Drive sewer, CEC would recommend any work to be performed during periods of low flow in Hunter Brook, typically late August/September.

Work in the Right-of-Way of Whitman Avenue and Braeburn Road, Generally

Adjacent to 47 and 200 Whitman Road (Braeburn Culvert) – Application (IWW #1045) of Town of West Hartford (Duane Martin, Town Engineer) seeking approval of an Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Permit to repair the drainage culvert conveying Trout Brook under Braeburn Road/Whitman Avenue. (Submitted for IWWA receipt on June 6, 2016. Presented for determination of significance.)

Duane Martin, P.E. at the Town of West Hartford and Jeffrey Scala, P.E. at Tectonic presented the application. The Town of West Hartford has hired Tectonic as the consultant for this project, and will retain Tectonic through the bidding process. The Braeburn Culvert, located where Whitman Avenue becomes Braeburn Road, is a galvanized plate steel twin drainage culvert built in the 1960's. The culvert is approximately 6 feet high and 9.5 feet wide. Upon inspection by the state Department of Transportation (DOT) in 2014 the culvert has received a Poor condition rating. Although the structure itself remains intact, the metal is corroded and there are some holes in the

steel. Scouring is occurring at the inlets and outlets. Currently water is channeling underneath the culverts.

The Town of West Hartford has received a matching grant from Connecticut DOT's Local Bridge Program to help pay to repair Braeburn Culvert. Pending project approval, Duane Martin estimated construction will begin in the summer of 2017 when school is out (as Braeburn Elementary is nearby).

Tectonic conducted hydrologic analysis of existing conditions as well as potential stream flows based on a two-year storm. Tectonic proposes to repair the culvert by welding stud shear connectors to the existing culverts, placing rebar and concrete below the spring line, and any additional steel repair required above the spring line. They will use steel sheet piling to close off one barrel at a time and there will be a temporary flow pipe 3-4 feet in diameter to accommodate a two-year storm event during the construction period. It is anticipated the project will take about two months to complete. Tectonic also proposes to install a frac tank to store any sediment picked up during the pumping process and plans to dispose of any collected sediment offsite. The use of overhead equipment is restricted due to the utility lines adjacent to the site. Contractors will use the parking lot access to store equipment and gain access to the project site. This will likely require some tree removal. Martin noted that the town has a 1:1 tree removal to planting policy that will be upheld and potentially increased for this project.

Scala then discussed proposed alternatives that were deemed not feasible. Replacing the culvert entirely was deemed unnecessary, particularly since it is likely a new bridge would need to be constructed. Installing new lining for the bottom and top of the culvert was rejected because of concerns the material would not last as long as the manufacturers advertise.

The applicants noted they are in the semi-final design stage and are planning to do additional outreach to abutting neighbors and to Braeburn Elementary. The Town of West Hartford owns the land adjacent to the project site.

The CEC did not express any significant concerns with the proposed project.

4. Motion for Meeting Adjournment approved (on Motion by Langan, Second by Sebastian,).